

However, with these men also there was a point of honour. When we suggested that they carry out their operations in adjoining fields where rats were reportedly doing a lot of damage, they shook their heads emphatically. Jungle rats only would be acceptable. Field rats were not their kettle of fish.

Thinking this incident over on the way home I felt that, after all, a meal of cooked rats is really not so revolting. The jungle rat is comparatively a clean feeder and belongs to the same group as the rabbit whose meat most of us will tuck away with much evident relish.

BANOO MANSION,  
NANPURA, SURAT,  
February 13, 1956.

F. D. GHEYARA

[The species referred to is apparently the Indian Mole-Rat (*Nesokia indica*), a prolific and destructive species with practically an all-India distribution. It forms a regular item of food for many local tribes in the countryside, who, in addition, dig up its burrows after the harvest for the grain it is in the habit of storing away. According to Jerdon a single burrow will sometimes yield as much as half a seer (1 lb.) of grain, containing even whole ears of jowari (*Sorghum vulgare*).—EDS.]

## 5. TUSKS OF INDIAN ELEPHANTS

Further to my note of 15 October 1946 (*JBNHS*, 46: 717/18), on the question of size of Indian elephants and their tusks, I send you details of two pairs of tusks which are still bigger than the ones I reported.

In 1953 the Ruler of Talcher killed a rogue tusker elephant in Dhenkanal, Orissa, which was 11' in height, each tusk weighing 1 md. 10 seers and measuring 8' 6" in length. A photograph of the Raja with the tusks was published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of 15 February 1953.

In 1952 a very large pair of tusks was found in the Goalpara East Division, Assam, the elephant having died a natural death or having been shot by poachers. One tusk weighed 1 md. 9 seers. 13 chattaks and measured 9' 2" in length and 1' 5" in girth. The other tusk was found cut short, probably by the persons who had concealed both the tusks in the jungle with the obvious intention of stealing them. Though some cut pieces were recovered, it was not possible to ascertain the exact measurements and weight of the mutilated tusk. As the two tusks were obviously symmetrical it may be taken that the cut tusk was of approximately the same length, weight, and girth as the complete tusk. The cut tusk was re-constructed with a wooden piece shaped and coloured exactly like the ivory and the pair was exhibited at the IVth World Forestry Congress at Dehra Dun in December 1954.

While the Ruler of Talcher's pair is the second heaviest pair on record, there are 3 individual tusks on record each heavier than a single tusk of this pair. The uncut tusk of the Assam pair referred to here is the third longest on record. I give below the weights and

measurements of some of the biggest tusks as far as I have been able to ascertain:

No.	Length outside curve	Greatest circumference	Weight	Locality	Owner
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	{ 9' 2" —Do— (?) }	{ 17" —Do— (?) }	{ 1 md. 9 Srs. 13 ch. (91 lb.) 13 ch.) —Do— (?) }	Assam, Goalpara East, 1952.	Assam Forest Museum, Gauhati.
2.	{ 8' 6" 8' 6" }	{ — ? — — ? — }	{ 1 md. 10 Srs. (92 lb.) 1 md. 10 Srs. (92 lb.) }	Orissa, Dhenkanal, 1953.	Ruler of Talcher.
3.	{ 7' 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ " 7' 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ " }	{ 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ " 17 $\frac{1}{3}$ " }	{ 102 lbs.* 97 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. }	Burma (King Thebaw's sacred white elephant.) Assam.	* <i>Record.</i> Marquis of Waterford.
4.	—	—	100 lb.	Assam.	The late Charles Redde.
5.	8'	16 $\frac{7}{8}$ "	90 lb.	S. India.	Sir Victor Brooke's Collection.
6.	8' 0"	16 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	82 lb. }	Assam, Goalpara West, 1946.	Assam Legislative Assembly, Shillong.
7.	7' 8" R. 7' 10" L.	18 $\frac{5}{8}$ " 19 $\frac{1}{4}$ "	{ 79 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. 82 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. }	Coimbatore Jungles, S. India, 1923.	C. R. T. Congreve ( <i>JBNHS</i> , 29: 1045).
8.	8' 9" R. 8' 2" L.	17 $\frac{1}{4}$ " ...	{ 81 lb. 81.2 lb. }	Assam.	Late Lord Lytton.
9.	7' 5" R. 7' 4" L.	17 $\frac{1}{4}$ " 17"	{ 77 lb. 71 lb. }	Mysore	Maharajah of Mysore.
10.	7' 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " 7' 3"	18 $\frac{3}{4}$ " 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	{ 77 lb. 77 lb. }	Assam, Goalpara West, 1940.	P. D. STRACEY, I.F.S.
11.	6' 6" 5' 8"	19" * 16"	{ 68 lb. 44 lb. }	Mysore.	* <i>Record.</i> Major Goring and C. Theobald.
12.	5' 9" 5' 11"	18 $\frac{1}{2}$ " 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	{ 65 lb. 62 lb. }	Wynaad, South India.	W. H. Pitt.

1 md. = 82 lb.

F.R.I. & COLLEGES,

DEHRA DUN,

April 4, 1956.

P. D. STRACEY, I.F.S.